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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,449	08/30/2001	Kevin P. Baker	P2548P1C9	4829

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BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610

EXAMINER
O HARA, EILEEN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1646	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/944,449	BAKER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eileen O'Hara	1646	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresp ndence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 22-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 22-27 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7 .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 22-27 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-21 have been canceled and claims 22-27 have been added as requested by Applicant in Paper Number 3 , filed August 30, 2001.

Specification

2.1 The disclosure is objected to because it contains embedded hyperlinks and/or other form of browser-executable code. See page 25, line 10, page 27, line 31 and page 94, line 32. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

2.2 The disclosure is also objected to because the tables are not labeled consecutively. The first table is Table 6 on page, 61, then tables 7-10 on pages 85, 96, 122 and 137, and then the last two tables are Tables 23 and 24 on pages 139 and 142. The tables should be renumbered 1-7, and the specification amended so that references to these tables are corrected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101 and § 112

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3.1 Claims 22 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 22 is directed to an antibody that binds to the

polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 50, and such an antibody could exist in nature. The rejection would be withdrawn if the word "isolated" was inserted in front of "antibody".

3.2 Claims 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility. Claims 22-27 are directed to antibodies to the protein of SEQ ID NO: 50, identified as PRO347. The instant specification discloses that PRO347 is a 455 amino acid protein, and is presumably a membrane-bound protein with a signal sequence from amino acids 1-26, extracellular domain from amino acids 1-109, and transmembrane domain from amino acids 110-124. The specification teaches that PRO347 has significant sequence homology to the cysteine-rich secretory protein-3. However, the protein, encoding nucleic acids, and antibodies to the protein do not have any specific and substantial utility, or a well established utility, as determined according to the current Utility Examination Guidelines, Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 4, pages 1092-1099, Friday, January 5, 2001.

The claims are directed to antibodies to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 50. The specification contains numerous asserted utilities for the nucleic acid, polypeptide at pages 69-89, including use as hybridization probes, in chromosome and gene mapping, in the generation of anti-sense RNA and DNA, to identify molecules that bind to PRO (including agonists and antagonists), to make "knock-out" mice or other animals, in gene therapy, as molecular weight markers, therapeutic agents, and for the production of antibodies. Asserted utilities for the antibodies include diagnostic assays for PRO, *e.g.* detecting its expression in specific cells, tissues or serum, and affinity purification of PRO347. The utilities that pertain solely to nucleic acids (e.g. hybridization, chromosome and gene mapping, anti-sense) would not convey to the

encoded protein. With respect to the remaining utilities, none of these asserted utilities is specific for the disclosed PRO347 protein or antibodies, as each of the aforementioned utilities could be asserted for any naturally occurring protein and associated antibodies, and further, as none of the asserted utilities requires any feature or activity that is specific to the disclosed PRO347.

The specification teaches that PRO347 has (unspecified) homology to cysteine-rich secretory protein-3. At pages 5, 12, 57 and 80, the specification states that PRO347 is a newly identified cysteine-rich secretory protein-3 homolog, and possesses activity typical of that protein, however no activity is known or disclosed for cysteine-rich secretory protein-3. The amino acid domains of the putative PRO347 peptide is shown in Figure 20 of the specification, in which signal sequence, extracellular and transmembrane domains are identified, however there is no disclosure that the protein is expected to be a transmembrane protein other than identification of a transmembrane domain in Figure 20. There is no biological activity, expression pattern, phenotype, disease or condition, ligand, binding partner, or any other specific feature that is disclosed as being associated with PRO347. Without any information as to the specific properties of PRO347, the mere identification of such as having significant sequence homology to cysteine-rich secretory protein-3 is not sufficient to impart any particular utility to the polypeptide or the claimed antibodies.

The specification at pages 119-137 describes experiments in which PRO347 encoding genes (as well as PRO327, PRO344, PRO357 and PRO715) are asserted to be amplified in the genome of certain human lung, colon and/or breast cancers and/or cell lines. At pages 119-137 it is disclosed that nucleic acids encoding PRO347 had a ΔCt value of at least 1.0 for a number of

primary lung and colon tumors and/or cell lines. At page 120, one delta (Δ) Ct unit is defined as corresponding to 1 PCR cycle or approximately a 2-fold amplification relative to normal, two units corresponds to 4-fold, 3 units to 8-fold amplification and so on. The specification further indicates that ΔCt is used as a quantitative measurement of the relative number of starting copies of a particular target sequence in a nucleic acid sample when comparing cancer DNA results to normal human DNA results. It is not clear how measurements of hundredths of a PCR cycle can be made, nor what the significance of a difference of 1 or 2 PCR cycles would be.

Results from such experiments are presented in Table 10 on page 137. The only samples shown are from tumors (cell lines?) that appear to be established, LT12-LT21, which on page 122, Table 9 are identified as lung tumor cells. Additionally, the table does not identify which columns are associated with which gene, so it is not shown what results correspond to PRO347, and the numbers do not show any type of recognizable pattern, since many go up and many also go down. Given the paucity of information, the data do not support the implicit conclusion of the specification that PRO347 shows a positive correlation with lung and colon cancer, much less that the levels of PRO347 would be diagnostic of such. Even *if* the data demonstrated a slight increase in copy number of PRO347 nucleic acids in primary tumors, such would not be indicative of a use of antibodies to the polypeptide as a diagnostic agent. Cancerous tissue is known to be aneuploid, that is, having an abnormal number of chromosomes (see Sen, 2000, Curr. Opin. Oncol. 12:82-88). The data presented in the specification were not corrected for aneuploidy. A slight amplification of a gene does not necessarily mean overexpression in a cancer tissue, but can merely be an indication that the cancer tissue is aneuploid. The preliminary data were not supported by analysis of mRNA or protein expression, for example.

Also, it does not necessarily follow that an increase in gene copy number results in increased gene expression and increased protein expression, such that antibodies would be useful diagnostically or as a target for cancer drug development. For example, Pennica et al. (1998, PNAS USA 95:14717-14722) teach that

> "An analysis of *WISP-1* gene amplification and expression in human colon tumors showed a correlation between DNA amplification and overexpression, whereas overexpression of *WISP-3* RNA was seen in the absence of DNA amplification. In contrast, *WISP-2* DNA was amplified in the colon tumors, but its mRNA expression was significantly reduced in the majority of tumors compared with the expression in normal colonic mucosa from the same patient."

See page 14722, second paragraph of left-hand column; pp.14720-14721; Pages 14720-14721, "Amplification and Aberrant Expression of *WISPs* in Human Colon Tumors".

Haynes et al. (Electrophoresis 19 :1862-1871, 1998), studied 80 proteins relatively Homogeneous in half-life and expression level, and found no strong correlation between protein and transcript levels; for some genes, equivalent mRNA levels translated into protein abundances which varied by more than 50-fold. Haynes concluded that the protein levels cannot be accurately predicted from the level of the corresponding mRNA transcript (page 1863, 2nd paragraph, and Figure 1).

Thus, the data do not support the implicit assertion that antibodies to the PRO347 polypeptide can be used as a cancer diagnostic. Significant further research would have been required of the skilled artisan to determine whether PRO347 is overexpressed in any cancer to the extent that antibodies to the protein could be used as a cancer diagnostic, and thus the implicitly asserted utility is not substantial.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 22-27 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either a specific and substantial asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5.1 Claim 25 is indefinite because an antibody can't be both an antibody and an antibody fragment.

5.2 Claim 27 is indefinite because it is not clear what "specifically" binds means. Though this term is used in the specification (for example page 16, lines 1-2, page 82, lines 4-6, page 88, lines 7-8 and page 116, line 30), it is not defined in the specification.

Priority Determination

6. As the claimed subject matter is found to lack utility and enablement under 35 U.S.C. 101 and 112, first paragraph, respectively, the effective priority date for this application is the instant filing date, 8/30/01.

Rejections over Prior Art

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 22-27 are drawn to an antibody that binds to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 50, wherein the antibody may be monoclonal, humanized, an antibody fragment or labeled.

7.1 Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Immunobiology, Third Edition, Charles A. Janeway, Jr. and Paul Travers, Eds. Current Biology Ltd./Garland Publishing Inc., 1997, page 3:4. Claim 25 encompasses an antibody fragment of an antibody that binds to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 50. Immunobiology teaches that the Fc fragment of an

antibody is a fragment that can be produced by enzymatic cleavage of the antibody molecule and contains the constant region of the antibody which does not bind the antigen.

7.2 Claims 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Botstein et al., WO 99/35170, July 15, 1999. Botstein et al. disclose a protein (SEQ ID NO: 14) that is 100% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50 of the instant application. Botstein et al. also teaches

7.3 Claims 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holtzman, WO 99/54343, October 28, 1999. Holtzman discloses a protein (SEQ ID NO: 2) that is 96.8% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 50 of the instant application, 99% identical to the extracellular domain of SEQ ID NO: 50 and 100% identical to the extracellular domain minus the signal peptide of SEQ ID NO: 50. Holtzman also teaches antibodies to the protein of SEQ ID NO: 2, which may be monoclonal, humanized, a fragment or labeled (page 35 line 30 to page 40 line 14).

Conclusion

8. No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eileen B. O'Hara, whose telephone number is (703) 308-3312. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached at (703) 308-6564.

Official papers Before Final filed by RightFax should be directed to (703) 872-9306.

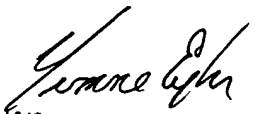
Official papers After Final filed by RightFax should be directed to (703) 872-9307.

Official papers filed by fax should be directed to (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Eileen B. O'Hara, Ph.D.

Patent Examiner



YVONNE EYLER, PH.D
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600